

To The HARTLEY WINTNEY
Rural District Council.

Area in Acres, 57,556. Population (1891) 24,521.

ANNUAL REPORT

By the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ending 31st December, 1898.

BLACKWATER, HANTS,

20th MARCH, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,

There were 229 deaths in the year, 99 of these being persons over 65 years of age, as against 65 in 1897. 15 deaths are certified from Influenza, as against 5 in 1897, but a far larger number no doubt is indirectly attributable to this complaint. There were only 3 deaths from Diphtheria, the disease having been of a less virulent type.

The death rate per the thousand per annum is 13.32, and the birth rate 26.12. The death rate of infants under one year of age per the rate of the thousand births registered is .98.

The death rate averaged for a series of years is almost as low as would be workable for the world to go on under present conditions. For instance, a death rate over a series of years of 10 per the thousand means that every person must live to an average of 100 years; and of 12 per the thousand to an average of 83. Consequently for everyone dying under these ages it is necessary some others must live to a correspondingly increased age, and that there would be many in this Union living over 100 years of age.

Mumps and general sickness prevailed in Fleet in November and December; the schools being closed a few weeks. Managers are getting much too partial to closing schools, and I have of late set my face against it, except in cases of stern necessity.

I visited Long Sutton and made a report on the condition of cottage property there, some of which I described as not alone unfit for habitation, but dangerous to live in.

I visited Odiham and North Warnborough on several occasions, inspecting the drains, water supply, and conditions of the place generally, and advised you thereon in a special report.

As you are aware there is now a public water supply rapidly spreading over the district. It is impossible not to notice that those who can help themselves to this great convenience do so, if it suits their purpose, while those who cannot—the dwellers in cottages—have as a rule to put up with the old, and in many instances, doubtful supply. This is not quite right, and I trust to see all proper pressure put on the owners. There can be no doubt but that real spring water is the best—shallow well the most liable to pollution, but wholesome enough if safeguarded. In almost any part of this Union you could command either spring water, deep-well water, upland surface water with the addition of surface well water. I mention these seeing that at no distant date the various village water supplies must be dealt with.

The gipsies on Yateley Common proper may not number quite so many as formerly, but this is nullified by some of the neighbouring owners harbouring them in the adjoining fields, and as I reported to you, creating a filthy and dangerous nuisance. Better by far to have left them on the Common. It would be interesting to know how much these people have cost the Union for some years past, which could have all been saved if the Lord of the Manor had put his foot down. On the Minley side of the Common not a gipsy is to be seen. Whose fault can it be that the other side is such a Pandemonium and nuisance?

The "Watcher-Messenger" system continues to work most excellently, and I see it is being largely copied. Even the house where disease first appears being made an isolation hospital of, and other cases drafted with it. This when practicable appears not a bad system.

The following is a copy of a special report I made to you in November last, and it may not be amiss to repeat it again here:—

A case of Diphtheria in Odiham having been notified to me, I inspected the premises and did not find anything very tangible to complain about. The case is isolated. The water supply is derived from the Old Brewery well which has been largely drawn upon during and since the recent drought. If this water has not been reported upon by the County Analyst, I would suggest that he be requested to make a Chemical and Bacteriological analysis and that samples be forwarded for that purpose.

I next inspected the private school the child attended at Colt Hill, kept by Miss Hibberd. There I find a history of the children having had colds and slight sore throats. This school has been closed and will remain so for a time. The water supply here is derived from a well nearly opposite, but in the yard behind the house there is also a well, the water of which is quite foul, and I should not be at all surprised, as I explained, if some of this water had found its way into that used for dietetic purposes. It is never safe to leave open a well of bad water which is nearer to the house than the supply of good water, and I hope you will order this well to be filled in forthwith.

Odiham Sewage Tanks.—While expressing no opinion as to the absolute utility of these, an improvement would be effected by more attention to details and the daily use of deodorants, say a manganate of potash. The effluent should be so diverted over the land that a fairly pure liquid discharge into the river. I am confident that except an intelligent man is detailed to see after the tanks—and this work at least every second day or so—there will be trouble before you can have a water supply and sewerage on approved principles. I don't believe any one knows where half the old drains, cesspits and dead wells are situated in and about Odiham.

Isolation Hospital.—I am still in favour of your approaching your neighbouring authorities. Theoretically it might be best that each authority should have its own Isolation Hospital, but under existing conditions there are many reasons for making the areas as large as is compatible with the comfortable and convenient conveyance of patients. The confidence of the public can only be secured by providing each Hospital with a competent staff of trained nurses. If the areas are too small these nurses would often be idle. I believe I am right in stating that the County Council has the power to contribute to the expenses of Isolation Hospitals.

I may say there has been very little sickness in the Union for months past.

The year 1898 is the lightest as regards sickness and disease that I remember.

I recommend you, as I have done for some years past, to institute a house to house inspection, and for this purpose to employ a certificated Sanitary Inspector. It would be a slow process, requiring far more time than your officers could possibly find for ~~it~~. The whole ground of water supply, drainage, and nuisances generally would be properly tabled and detailed, and be of infinite service in many directions, more especially in the event of epidemic disease.

I append the reports of the Sanitary Inspectors,

And remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. J. DENNY,

Medical Officer of Health.

FLEET, WINCHFIELD,

20th March, 1899.

C. J. DENNY, Esq.,

Medical Officer of Health,

HARTLEY WINTNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SIR,

I beg to hand you an account of the work done during the year 1898, in the various parishes for which I am Inspector of Nuisances.

Houses disinfected after the existence of Infectious Disease	13
Case of overcrowding abated	1
New Privies built on old premises	8
Old Privies repaired and rebuilt	13
Privies cleaned out	26
Sink Drains cleaned out and repaired	16
Foul ditches cleaned out	20
Dead Wells and filthy Cesspits filled in	11
New Cesspits provided	9
Filthy Cesspits cleaned out	11
New Wells on old premises	7
Old Wells cleaned out and repaired	15
Houses unfit for habitation condemned	3
Ditto made fit by repairs (left from last year)	1
Delapidated Houses repaired	4
Filthy Pigstyes cleaned out	21
Ordinary Nuisances, dung heaps, switch holes, accumulations of vegetables, &c. removed	94

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. SISTERSON.

ODIHAM,

20th March, 1899.

To C. J. DENNY, Esq.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I forward you particulars of the work done in the Parishes for which I am Nuisance Inspector, viz.: Greywell, Long Sutton, Odiham, Rotherwick, Winchfield, and South Warn borough.

Cowsheds inspected	28
Filthy Cottages cleaned	3
Drains relaid	7
New Cesspits built	2
Drains cut off from streams	8
Privies cleaned	36
Overcrowding abated	4
Pigstyes cleaned out	11
Bad Cesspits closed	2
Drains Trapped	21
Wells cleaned out	21
A great many Wells lowered	
Delapidated Cottages repaired	4
Foul Ditches cleaned	6
Well covers repaired	6
Sink Cesspits cleaned	9
Filthy Ditches piped in	1
Cowsheds cleaned	3
Wells closed	3
Dead Wells made watertight	5
Filthy heaps removed	14
Delapidated Privies repaired	29
Dog Kennels cleaned	3
Sink drains cleaned	4
Cowsheds registered	2
Water supplied to Cottages	8
New Well dug	1
Case of Infectious Disease	1
W.C.'s ventilated	3
Samples of Water tested	8
Samples sent to County Analyst	4
Certificates for water supply to new Houses	3

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

STANLEY BUTLER,

Sanitary Inspector.

